

Response to Non-Final Office Action
Docket No. A0836

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, and 20-27 are pending. Claims 1-3, 10-12, and 18-20 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 13-17, 21, and 23-26 have been amended. No new matter has been entered. Claims 4-9, 13-17, and 21-27 remain.

Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of June 26, 2006, in which the bases of rejection in conflict and the allowability of subject matter claimed were discussed.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 18 has been canceled and the rejection thereby rendered moot.

Claims 24 and 26 stand subject to objection for informalities. Applicant's representative notes that the Office action should have referred to Claims 24 and 25, which have both been rewritten to cure the informalities. Withdrawal of the informalities objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, 18, 22, and 26 stand subject to objection as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 4 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claims 1 and 3, which are now canceled. Similarly, Claim 13 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claims 10 and 12, which are now canceled. As well, Claim 21 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claims 18 and 20, which are now canceled. Finally, Claim 26 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claims 1 and 3 *mutatis mutandis*. Additionally, Claims 5 and 7-9; 14-17; and 23-25 have been rewritten to respectively be dependent upon Claims 4, 13, and 21 and, where needed, to correct antecedent bases. Accordingly, remaining Claims 4, 6, 13, 14, 22, and 26 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 15-17, 20, 23-25, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,484,196, to Maurille. Claims 3, 12, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 7-9; 15-17; and 23-25 have been rewritten to respectively be dependent upon allowable Claims 4, 13,

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and 21. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed by the applicant and is considered to be no more pertinent than the prior art references
5 already applied.

Examination and further consideration of the application are respectfully requested. Claims 4-9, 13-17, and 21-27 are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Applicant authorizes the Examiner to reorder and renumber the claims into proper form. Entry of the foregoing amendments is requested and a Notice of
10 Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please contact the undersigned at (206) 381-3900 regarding any questions or concerns associated with the present matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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